

# Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program

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*An Overview of the Marine Corps SAPR Program*

Preventing  
*Sexual Assault*  
is Everyone's Duty...



SAPR

# Objectives

- Provide an overview of sexual assault and its impact on victims
- Provide an overview of the USMC Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program
- Discuss the benefits of partnering with local SAPR Programs

# Understanding the Issue

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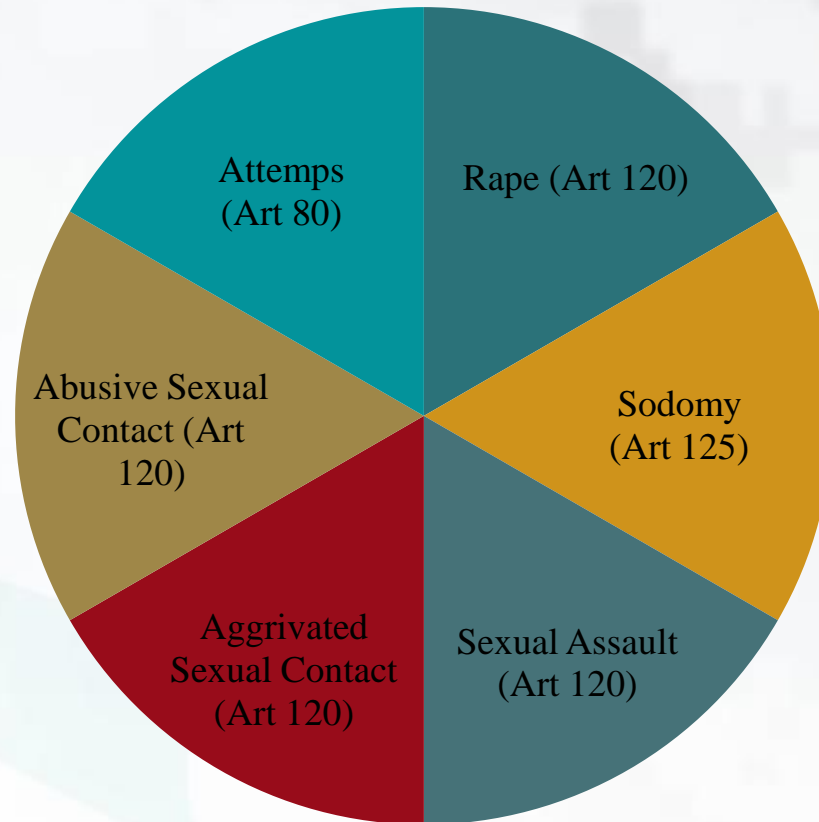
## *An Overview of Sexual Assault*

# Sexual Assault Defined

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- Sexual assault is defined as *intentional sexual contact*, characterized by the use of
  - force
  - threats
  - intimidation
  - abuse of authority
  - or when the victim does not or cannot consent

# Sexual Assault in the UCMJ



# **Impact of Sexual Assault on the Victim**

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## **Immediate**

- Numbness and detachment
- Anxiety or severe fear
- Guilt and anger
- Extreme fatigue or exhaustion
- Difficulty concentrating
- Memory Problems
- Racing thoughts
- Greater startle response

## **Long Term**

- Irritability and/or hostility
- Depression, anxiety, and shame
- Fear of recurrence
- Emotional detachment
- Sleep disturbances, fatigue
- Intrusive memories or flashbacks
- Difficulty making decisions
- Powerlessness
- Suicidal thinking

# A Source of Support

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*The USMC SAPR Program*



# The USMC SAPR Program

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The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Program is dedicated to eliminating sexual assault within the Marine Corps and providing continuity of care for victims of sexual assault through effective education, policy, and program support.

*The SAPR Program is operational in both the garrison and deployed environments*



# Those Eligible for SAPR Services

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- All Active Duty Service Members
- Reservists
- Adult Dependents
  - *Eligible for treatment in the military healthcare system when the offender is not the spouse or family member*
- DoD Civilians and Their Dependents
  - *When stationed or working OCONUS*
- DoD Contractors
  - *When stationed or working OCONUS*

# Services Provided by the SAPR Program

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- **24/7 sexual assault crisis intervention**
- Nonclinical support and referring the victim to other supportive services (e.g. Victims' Legal Counsel, clinical counseling, medical, chaplain).
- Advocacy and accompaniment during medical, law enforcement, and judicial procedures
- Systemic advocacy to ensure all victims receive a consistent response to their report
- Support and services at next duty station (if the victim requests) through the SAPR network

# Key Roles in the SAPR Program

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# Victim Reporting Options

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## *Unrestricted Reporting*

Initiates an official law enforcement investigation  
& the support of the chain of command

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## *Restricted Reporting*

Allows the victim to report *confidentially*  
& receive help without an investigation or  
command involvement

# Unrestricted Reporting

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- Election made on the DD2910, “Victim’s Reporting Preference Statement” \* (VRPS)
- An official law enforcement investigation is conducted in order to hold the offender accountable
- Command is notified and therefore able to provide the maximum care and support to the victim, i.e. MPO
- Victim may chose NOT to participate in the law enforcement investigation

# Unrestricted Reporting

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For an Unrestricted Report, the victim can contact:

- Uniformed Victim Advocate (SAPR VA)\*
- Civilian Victim Advocate (SAPR VA)\*
- Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC)\*
- Healthcare Personnel
- Command
- Law Enforcement

# Expedited Transfers in Unrestricted Reports

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- Allows victims an opportunity to *request a transfer and receive a decision quickly from their commander*
- Option available for Unrestricted Reports only
- With the assistance of the Victim Advocate or SARC, the victim can submit a request for the transfer to the CO
- The CO will respond to the victim's request within 72 hours with an approval or disapproval



# Restricted Reporting

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- Supports victims who need more time or simply don't feel comfortable coming forward
- Election is made on the DD2910, VRPS\*
- A law enforcement investigation is not initiated
- Command is not notified
- The Installation Commander is notified within 24 hours that a Restricted Report has been filed however, *no identifying information will be provided*

# Restricted Reporting

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- Victim can **only** report to:

- Uniformed/Civilian Victim Advocate\*
- SARC\*
- Healthcare Personnel

*In some states, including California, medical providers are required to report sexual assault*

- Option can also be preserved if you speak to a:

- Chaplain
- Military Legal Assistance Attorney/VLC

# A Valuable Partnership

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*Working with your local  
SAPR Program*

# A Valuable Resource to One Another

## The Process

SAPR is focused on advocacy and supporting the victim through the processes

VWAP is focused on helping victims understand the military judicial process



## Victim Support

SAPR will provide advocacy & accompaniment for as long as the victim desires

VWAP provides critical information to victims, this may occur after SAPR case has closed



## Ideal Outcome

**Both programs can work together seamlessly to provide maximum support to the victim**

# Connecting With The SAPR Program

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- A partnership allows both programs to work more efficiently toward protecting victims' rights
- A positive working relationship makes it easier to identify and resolve concerns for a victim
- Victim has a “team” focused approach
- Attend the Case Management Group (CMG) and High Risk Response Team (HRRT) when assigned to a victim's case

# Raise Awareness Together

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- Partner with the Installation SARC and Command SARCs on events that bring awareness to victims' rights issues
  - April is Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM)
  - National Crime Victims' Rights Week
  - Consider an awareness campaign that continues throughout the year

# Conclusion

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- Sexual assault is a serious crime impacting the Marine Corps
- Both the VWAP and SAPR Programs play vital roles in victim care and assistance
- Working together can greatly benefit victims of sexual assault